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PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #2514 2560602
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 120602Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7204
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9835
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3576
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5314
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2528
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1312
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1622
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 002514

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - NORTH KOREA

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Friday morning included the finding on Thursday that some of the pesticide-tainted rice from China that was intended for industrial use has been served at 119 hospitals and nursing homes in Japan.

¶2. "Preparations Needed for All Possible Contingencies"
The conservative Sankei editorialized (9/12): "There have been reports that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il is seriously ill. We must be vigilant against a possible power vacuum in the country.... The situation is unpredictable, given the possibility of a power struggle over leadership.... North Korea possesses nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons in addition to its Rodong and Taepodong missiles, which can reach the U.S. and Japan. North Korea is a very dangerous nation in terms of peace and security in East Asia, especially for Japan.... It is urgent for the GOJ to prepare for all possible contingencies.... Specifically, Japan needs to strengthen coordination with its ally, the U.S., and the SDF and U.S. military need to share information on North Korea."

ZUMWALT